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July 27, 1993

Honorable Sharp James, Mayor  
City of Newark  
City Hall  
920 Broad Street  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

RE: Board of Education Controlled Properties between Norfolk  
and Richmond Streets, and West Market Street and 13th Avenue

Dear Mayor James:

I find I must write to you regarding the above area. Our files reflect that from the time we first began discussing our public/private partnership in the University Heights area, the above properties (adjacent to the Marcus Garvey School) were never considered to be within the redevelopment area as it had been "promised" to the Board of Education to be used for their future needs. At times we were told that this area would be used for an addition to the existing school building, that it would be the location for a "new" school building, that it would be the location for the Board of Education maintenance garage, that it would be the location for the Board of Education's new administrative offices.

Regardless of the Board of Education's ultimate plans for this area, we have repeatedly had discussions with representatives of the Board and representatives of the City. Our concern is that this area was and remains unsightly. In fact the condition of the area is worse now than it was before we started construction in 1988. Buildings are boarded up, some are in need of demolition. Businesses have come and gone along West Market Street. In short its current condition is a detriment to the entire area.

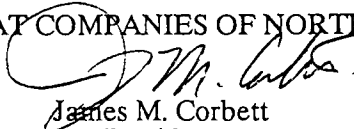
We understand that the previous discussions between the City administration and the Board of Education was to the effect that the City would be used by the Board of Education as the catalyst for acquisition and demolition of the existing structures in this area. When we first heard this, about a year ago, we were pleased that this would occur as the area would begin to look better. Unfortunately we understand that the City is still awaiting finalization of this arrangement with the Board of Education.

As indicated, buildings are vacant and appear ready to fall down. It is in the Board of Education's and the City's best interest to change these areas from an eyesore and, more importantly, a safety risk, to vacant lots.

I respectfully ask that you take this matter up directly with the highest officials within the Board of Education immediately.

Very truly yours,

K. HOVNANIAN AT COMPANIES OF NORTH JERSEY, INC.

  
James M. Corbett  
President

JMM/vak

cc: Michelle Hollar Gregory, Esq.  
Glenn Grant, Esq.  
Jean Campbell, Board of Education  
Newark Priority Issues File

KHOV042041